



The Surrey Amateur Radio Club

Communicator

Season's Greetings

DECEMBER 2014



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and Much More!

The Newsletter of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club

December 2014



At The Last Meeting...



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Minutes of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club General Meeting

November 12, 2014

Introduction

After a delay in gaining access to the venue, the meeting was opened at 1920. President John VA7XB welcomed visitors Glen Johnson VE7GPJ and Bob Henderson VE7HBG. Congratulations were also extended to Alastair Gardiner VA7YVW, who was recently licensed.

Committee Reports

Financial

Scott VE7HA reported the status of the chequing and savings accounts and emphasized that outstanding 2014/2015 club dues must be paid as soon as possible. The Surrey Community grant of \$550 for Field Day expenses has now been received and a new grant applied for. An application for RAC insurance has also been submitted, based on the membership roster as of June 2014.

Christmas Party

Jinty VA7JMR stated that 41 persons are now signed up for the Christmas party. Payment in advance is encouraged. Jinty is collecting donations for door prizes which can be brought to the event. Letters to be given to vendors requesting donations are available from Jinty or John. The big door prize is a Baofeng VHF/UHF radio. John reminded members that nominations are needed for "Amateur of the Year" commendations, which will be awarded at the party. Nominations including reasons for the nomination should be sent to va7xb@rac.ca.

Membership

The current membership roster stands at 81, not all of whom are in good standing due to dues owing. Stan VA7NF continues to take photos of members for

use in the membership database. John VA7XB requested that any member who has not recently completed a membership form should do so to bring it up-to-date.

Communicator

A report was unavailable in the absence of John VE7TI.

Website

After Howard VA7HTZ reported that the website is up-to-date, he was thanked for his diligent management of the website, which he has taken over from Hiu VE7YXG.

Repeater and Tuesday Night Net

No recent problems were reported by Rob VE7CZV, since the repeater problems a couple weeks ago were resolved.

Contest Group

Brett VE7GM reported that SARC is participating in 4 contests in November, the next one being the ARRL SSB Sweepstakes this coming weekend, which Jim VE7FO is hosting. Those interested in joining the contest group should contact Brett.

Satellite Group

This group will get underway in January. Three additional members indicated they would like to participate.

CW Group

Not yet formally organized.

Field Day

John VA7XB indicated that a Field Day leader is still sought. Stan VA7NF reported that FD results are now available on QST digital version (it has been subsequently confirmed that for the Canadian entries VE1FO came first in Class 2A with a score of 7218 and VE7SAR came second with a score of 6256).

Upcoming Meetings

January - Ron Casey VE7VTA of the RCMP will give a talk on emergency communications in the context of the terrorist threat.

February - James Longley will give a talk on the PREOC and radio room

New Business

There was no new business.

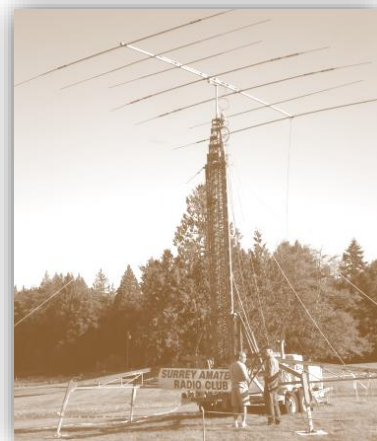
Featured Presentation

Joe Zaccaria VE7TOL gave an excellent presentation on Raspberry Pi, what it is, how it can be used, and showed various pieces of equipment that are available. He explained the difference between Raspberry Pi and Arduino. Lots of questions from the audience confirmed members' interest in this new technology. Joe graciously offered to have his Powerpoint material referenced on the website.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2100 hr.

~ Recorded by John VA7XB

~ Rob Gilchrist VE7CZV, SARC Secretary



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To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery of this newsletter, notify SARCcommunicator@outlook.com

Non-members living in the Greater Vancouver area may receive one trial issue.

Beyond our membership area, annual Communicator subscriptions are available for a \$5 donation towards our Field Day fund.

SARC maintains a website at www.ve7sar.net that includes club history, meetings, news, photos and other information.

SARC Amateur Of The Year Past Recipients

2007 Anton James VE7SSD

2008 John Brodie VA7XB

2009 Gary Skett VE7AS, Ken Clarke VE7BC, Kjeld Frederiksen VE7GP

2010 Fred Orsetti VE7IO, Bill Gipps VE7XS, Hiu Yee VE7YXG

2011 John Schouten VE7TI, Bill Little VE7ZBL, Susan Eshelmann VE7IIE

2012 Nicole Stopa VE7PET, Arthur Siemens VE7SIE, Dave Cameron VE7LTD, Steve Coleman VE7MAN, Jim Smith VE7FO

2013 Jinty Reid VA7JMR, Rob Gilchrist VE7CZV, Brett Garrett VE7GM

This Month...

On [page 20](#), John Brodie VA7XB shares the story of how he became involved in the hobby as a teen. We'd like to know your first steps. Please take the time to send in your experiences to SARCcommunicator@outlook.com



Tu-104 Soviet jet aircraft
VE7BFE's first DX contact
1960



A.S. Popoff
"The great Russian
Scientist - the
inventor of Radio"



Moscow Red Square



Cosmonaut
Yuri Gagarin
First man in
space

On the left are several QSL cards that John received early in his Amateur Radio pursuits. The cards pictured are from the USSR.

December 2014



The Contest Group Update

Brett Garrett VE7GM

Hi fellow testers!

The Contest Group is one of three special interest groups introduced this year, and is apparently the furthest along in terms of activities. We have thirteen members to date, not all of whom have the time at present to be fully active. Since September we have participated in six contests, covering all three contest modes: SSB, CW, and RTTY.

A quick summary for those of you who weren't able to attend that meeting:

We discussed a method of communicating and Joe suggested we look at Wordpress as a platform. We should all have a look at it as we would all want to be able to make use of it. Sheldon offered to look into what would be involved in putting a SARC Contest Group forum on our SARC website. Yahoo Groups is possible but doesn't permit the degree of filtering of topics that would be

possible with the other two platforms. I find myself getting lots of Yahoo Group email that is of no immediate interest because I have no easy way to reliably filter out the stuff that is of no particular, or at least of no immediate, interest to me that is sent to a Group that I have subscribed to. Email from a YG is all or nothing. We can do better.

December will have only one contest: Canada's own Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Winter Contest in both SSB & CW, on 27 December. Then in January 2015 things will get

busy again with four contests, one on each weekend except for the last. These four contests cover all three modes. Contests continue at a slowly decreasing rate until 1 July 2015, when we finish off the season with the second annual RAC contest: the Canada Day Contest. Our contest schedule can be found on the club website (www.ve7sar.net, on the home page under "Upcoming Events"). If you are not familiar with where to look to find listings of all upcoming contests, try www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php

The purpose of the group is to bring together our serious testers, and we welcome new members to the group at any time. Any club member who thinks they might be interested in trying out contesting should feel free to contact me or any other member of the executive to get more details.



The Contest Group meets. Attending were Joe, Jim, Kapila, John VA7XB, Sheldon and myself, Brett VE7GM.

Two items:

1. In case you aren't familiar with the propagation warnings from the Australian Radio and Space Weather services, see the bulletin below (the one I am forwarding). Other space weather sites that may be of interest include www.spaceweather.com, www.swpc.noaa.gov, and www.spaceweather.gc.ca/index-eng.php.

2. On Sunday, October 9th we held the kickoff meeting for the SARC Contest Group at Scottsdale Lanes. (Many thanks are due to Ken VE7BC for allowing us the use of part of his lounge. Worked out very well for us, I think.)

Unable to attend were the rest of our group: Al VE7CDC, Anton VE7SSD, Bill VE7XS, Garvin VA7YEE, Howard VA7HTZ, John VE7TI, Keenan VE7XEN, and Stan VA7NF. There are fourteen of us in total.

To Catch A Thief...

This individual was involved in a robbery and assault on November 5th 2014.

We believe that he is involved in either amateur radio or scanning hobbies from the items he specifically focused on and may be looking for accessories for the equipment he stole.

He may be driving a BC registered medium metallic blue mid-sized 4 door SUV with 800MHz antenna on the driver side.



If you have any information on the identity and whereabouts of the individual in these pictures, please contact Cst. G. Egri, at the Richmond Detachment of the RCM Police at 604-278-1212 x2365 regarding file 2014-35208.

Crimestoppers can be reached at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or www.solvecrime.ca

iCom HF Tech Tip

I experience hash on SSB from stations that are sometimes as much as 5kHz away. I have gone through the set up multiple times and I am perplexed. This happens on USB and LSB. I am the original owner and it has done this since I received the radio well over a year ago.

Any suggestions?

*Leslie, ad5wb
League City, Texas*

Not all problems are caused by your receiver. If you have set your Roofing filters and still have the splatter, it may be the transmitted signal itself. Some radios do not have a very clean transmitted signal. Another, more likely problem is the operator/radio you are getting splatter from has his mic gain turned up too much and/or uses an amplifier without an ALC connection, i.e. the amplifier is over-driven. You can't fix those problems at your receiver.

I have a good friend within 1 mile of my QTH. Our antennas are within line of sight of each other, we both use Icom radios (him a 756PRO III, me a 7600) we both use PW-1 amplifiers regularly. In pile-ups for the current DXpedition, where we are both funning full power, we do not interfere with each other. The only way I know he is on is I can see his signal to the top of the band scope. Then we have another neighbor about 2 to 3 miles away and when he gets on 17 meters SSB he raises the entire band's noise floor up and if we are close enough in frequency we get fundamental overload, AGC cut back and splatter so bad that I leave the band. Thankfully he is not that active.

In a crowded band with splatter conditions (Contesting, rare DX pile-up), you should set your filter selection to no more than 2.4K and check to see if you have the roofing filter selected to 3K. To check, select the 2.4k SSB filter then press and hold the filter button to check what you have the roofing filter set at for the 2.4k setting.

If the filters are set correctly, the next time it happens turn off the preamp (P.AMP button to OFF), if the problem still persists try adding in some Signal Attenuation (ATT button). If none of that helps, move away, because you've done all you can.

~ Dave, w6de



December 2014



The Contest Contender

Jim Smith VE7FO

SWEEPSTAKES SSB 2014 AT VE7FO

I've been spending some time upgrading my station configuration from my Yaesu FT1000MP MkV radio to an Elecraft K3. I've also added a MicroHam MK-II keyer interface unit and a legal limit amplifier. As this is, among other things, an op training station, I have a 4 channel headphone amp with individual volume controls so the op, the mentor and a couple of others can all listen to the radio at a comfortable audio level.

Because of other things happening in my life this is taking far longer than one would expect.

This is the first contest in which I've had all 4 pieces operating together (sort of) so more than the usual amount of pre-contest prep was required.

Our final score summary

Band	QSOs	Pts	Sec
3.5	28	56	11
7	36	72	15
14	111	222	15
21	96	192	14
28	51	102	28
Total	322	644	83
Score: 53,452			

The amplifier is an auto-tune amp which means you can change frequencies and bands without touching the amp. This is VERY nice for chasing multipliers in a contest. If you see one spotted, even if it's on a different band, you just click on the spot and make your call. The radio and the amp change to the new frequency automatically. No time wasted with band switch or tuning knobs. This does require that you pretune the amp to five different segments of each band and store the settings, though.

One of the difficulties I ran into is that the amp really doesn't like to work into an SWR greater than 2:1 and shuts down at power levels lower than the amp is capable of. My wire antennas typically have an SWR as high as 4:1. Why so high? When I put them up I didn't bother to tune them to resonance as my radio had a built-in antenna tuner which easily handled this. So, time to take down the 40 & 80m dipoles and tune them properly. Hmm... Somehow the haul rope on the south support mast has become jammed and the dipoles couldn't be lowered. Put in a call to a buddy with a bucket truck. He won't be able to deal with it until Feb or so.

So, lots of time fiddling with the amp trying to get it to work with 4:1 SWR, with no help from the manual. Accept the fact that on some bands

I can only put out 600W or so. Still, that's 1.5 S Units better than the max 100W from the radio.

Immediately to the left of the op position and attached to the op desk is a 6 ft bookshelf, arranged such that the books are easily accessible to the op. The end of the bookshelf pretty well lines up with the op's shoulders. I installed jacks for the headset audio and mic plugs on the end of the bookshelf at the top. When the op is wearing the headset with the cord on his left (as it is with my Heil) the cord drops down to about 6" above the floor, but is never on the floor, and then rises to the top of the bookshelf. Woo-hoo! All the headset cord management issues have gone away and the op has plenty of freedom of motion, including standing up and walking around. Some other issues have arisen, though.

The obvious place for the 4 channel headphone amp is also at the top of the bookshelf beside the headphone/mic jacks where it is very accessible to the op and others so that's where I put it.

OK, let's try it out. Rx audio appears at all 4 jacks and each is separately controllable by its own knob. Does the mic work? Key up the radio, including the amp, and Aaarrggghhh what's that horrible racket in the phones? Presumably RF getting into the headphone amp.

OK, let's put some by-pass capacitors across all the headphone amp inputs and outputs. Normally I would use .01 uF disc ceramics but all I had was .0015 uF so I used those. Did it help? Seems not. How about ferrites on the leads? Two of them with 10 turns each. Nope.

This is the day before the contest and I'm tired and desperate so I chose to blame my problems, incorrectly as it turns out, on the MK-II keyer. I figured that RF was getting into it so I bypassed it by plugging the headset mic and phones plugs directly into the radio. End of problem. (I have since found that I can plug the mic and phones into the jacks on the bookshelf, plug the other end into the keyer, plug the keyer audio lines into the radio and get great audio with no RF feedback. Just don't use the 4 channel headphone amp.)

It's an hour before the contest starts. Time to set up the .wav file recordings of the various

messages such as, "CQ Sweepstakes Victor Echo Seven Sierra Alpha Romeo Victor Echo Seven Sierra Alpha Romeo SS" Have never used the MK-II keyer (it has its own sound card) with .wav files but shouldn't be a problem.

Hah.... I bypassed the keyer - remember? - and the mic is plugged directly into the radio so no way to play sound files through the radio. While I'm mentally processing this, Sheldon, VA7XNL, arrives for his 2200 to 0200 (Z) shift.

Somewhat embarrassed, I explain to him that we won't be using .wav files and that he'll have to use the mic for everything. In this contest our exchange was the QSO number followed by MIKE VE7SAR FIVE THREE BRAVO CHARLIE. We really missed those .wav files!

After a brief orientation to the K3 radio Sheldon set to work. He started S&P on 10m, which was very active. He switched to Run mode around 0000. Things dried up around 0030 so he switched to S&P on 15m followed by more Running at about 0145. That dried up around 0200 so it's off to 20m for more S&P until 0300 when he went home.

By the end of his shift we were at 83 QSOs and 42 multipliers. In this contest the multipliers are RAC/ARRL Sections. There are 83 sections so the max number of mults you can get is 83.

I don't have a footswitch (and don't want one). I use voice control (VOX) whereby you just speak into the mic when you want to transmit. This caused some problems in the training environment as everytime I spoke to Sheldon he took off the phones so he could hear me and this triggered the VOX. In addition, the button on the radio which enables or disables the VOX is also used to change bands so, if you hit it the wrong way, the VOX is still on and you're on the next lower band. I need to find a way of controlling the VOX with an external switch or a keyboard macro or something.

I operated for a while after Sheldon left. I spent all my time doing S&P for multipliers. I was trying to get all the Western mults before I went to bed as they are difficult to work in the daytime, being in our skip zone. Well, at about 0800 I had all the sections except some on the East coast and Utah. I was running at this time and was delighted to be called by AD7V in Utah. At last, I can go to bed.

At this point our mult total was 72. 11 to go.

Next morning I continued a combination of Running and S&P for mults until John, VA7XB, showed up for his shift at about 2100. When he arrived our totals stood at 168 Qs and 81 mults. The missing ones were NLI (Northern Long Island) and Virgin Islands.

If you work all the RAC/ARRL Sections in Sweepstakes you are said to have worked a "Clean Sweep" This doesn't affect your score at all but it does give you certain bragging rights at your local club. I always like to try to do it. Not really very hard if you use spots.

John prefers S&P on SSB because of a hearing problem, so, after a bit of familiarization with the K3, that's how he started out on 10m. His 5th contact was N2TX in NLI. BINGO - One to go.

Around 2200 10 dried up so we switched to 15m.

Around 2330 John works K9VV/KP2 in the Virgin Island - a Clean Sweep. I get all excited and while standing behind him I start yelling, "Sweep, Sweep, Sweep". John thought I was yelling at him to do something but he had no idea what. After all, this isn't a curling rink.

Around 0000 15 dried up so we switched to 20m. Shortly after, John decides to try running. Well, for someone who claims to have great difficulty doing this he did very well, not just in logging the difficult exchange but also picking out call signs out of the bedlam of all the stations calling him. His 10 minute rate jumped from about 35 per hour to over 80 per hour. He ran until the end of his shift. He looked a little frazzled by the end. Running is certainly more stressful than S&P as you simply have to keep up with no fumbling to maintain high rates. Still, it gets easier with experience.

It's always fun having people here for contests. It is particularly pleasing to observe increasing skill levels after a few contests. Thanks, Sheldon and John, for taking the trouble to come all this way. I hope you enjoyed it. I did.

~ Jim VE7FO



What is the meaning of ten minute rate and how is it calculated?

Say N1MM tells you that, at the moment, your ten minute rate is 85. This means that if you keep on making QSOs at the same rate you have done in the last 10 minutes then you will make 85 QSOs in one hour.

It is calculated as follows:

Count how many QSOs were made in the last ten minutes.

Multiply this number by six

December 2014



Official Field Day Results

The scores are in...

With two transmitters instead of three we made only about 11% fewer QSOs

The 2014 table lists the top scoring stations in Canada, sorted by score. Note that entries from more than one category are included. Our category was 2A.

2014

CALL	CATEGORY	SCORE	QSOs	POWER MULT
VE1FO	2A	7218	1997	2
VE7SAR	2A	6256	1541	2
VE3HB	2A	6108	1597	2
VE4BB	3A	4798	1049	2
VE3SAR	3A	4342	916	2
VE3ORF	2A	3772	1076	2
VE3RCMP	2F	1310	253	2

So, VE1FO beat us by a substantial margin.

If we had simply entered our score in Category 3A the table shows that we would have been #1 in Canada by a very large margin of 1400 points over VE4BB.

I wonder if VE3HB changed category from 2013 to get away from us? Had they stayed in 3A they would have been #1 VE.

2013

CALL	CATEGORY	SCORE	QSOs	POWER MULT
VE1FO	2F	7396	1873	2
VE7SAR	3A	7262	1689	2
VE3HB	3A	7160	1749	2
VE7SCC	3A	3246	847	2

Note that VE1FO was in a different category. Score is included here for reference.

Well, our hope to be #1 in Canada wasn't realized. VE1FO has been a formidable competitor for years but they've been operating out of an EOC for the last few years which put them in Category 2F (two transmitters). Sadly for us, they decided to head out to the field this year.

A few things can be deduced from the difference in our scores. They had 456 MORE QSOs than we did and beat us by 1,062 points. If all 456 of these QSOs were made on phone that would provide 912 of these points (2x power multiplier). If 399 were on phone and 57 were on CW that would provide the 1026 points difference. (CW QSOs are worth 2 points and phone only 1) This suggests that they don't have as strong a CW team as we have.

Of course, this assumes that they made the same number of bonus points as us and the same number of GOTA points. If they got fewer the difference would be made up by more CW QSOs,

How did they make so many more QSOs? I believe that they do quite well with the "free" VHF/UHF op position. (You can have one VHF/UHF op position without putting you in a different category.)

In spite of the fact that we got blind sided by VE1FO we did VERY well this year. With two transmitters instead of three we made only about 11% fewer QSOs.

Every year things go smoother and we get better. This wouldn't be happening without the dedication of many of our members to the achievement of our goal to be #1 in Canada. It is personally very gratifying to me to see how we've improved over the last few years and I thank everyone who has put time and effort into making this work.

~ Jim VE7FO





The Continuing Saga Of The μ Ham MicroKeyer II

Jim Smith VE7FO

I expect that everyone will remember all the difficulties I was having before FD getting the audio portion of the MK-II working properly with the K3 radio. In particular, I found the manual to be very unclear and poorly organized. For example there are several references to a station mic (as well as one to a radio mic which turns out to be the station mic) but it isn't clear what constitutes a station mic. I have at least 6 microphones, some dynamic and some electret. Which one is the station mic? I asked the μ Ham rep (W4TV) to clarify and he said it's the mic the radio came with. Well, I did order mics with the K3s so that answered my question. As things were a little testy I didn't ask the obvious question, "Say I hadn't ordered mics with the radios? What then?"

I have a pretty strong background in documentation so this kind of thing drives me up the wall, especially after having paid some pretty big bux for the two interfaces.

So, the station mic is the K3 mic which is an electret mic (high output level). The actual mic to be used is a Heil HC4 which is a dynamic (low output level).

I followed the instructions (and info from W4TV) as best I could. They start with using the "station mic" plugged directly into the radio to establish the correct mic gain level for the radio. Then the station mic is plugged into the RJ45 connector on the back of the MK-II box and a trim pot is adjusted, to what purpose wasn't clear to me. We weren't going to be using a hand mic so why am I doing this?

Next was to (finally) plug the Heil headset mic into the front panel Ext Mic input and adjust a different trim pot to get the desired ALC level. Hmm... I don't like things plugged into the front panel - I expect to have everything plugged into the rear panel.

IIRC, wasn't able to get sufficient audio to drive the K3 to full output.

One of the things which came out of the discussions with W4TV was that if the "station mic" output was particularly high or the dynamic mic output was particularly low then it might not be possible to drive the K3 to full output. Well, geez. Time to ask for a refund?

So, we didn't use that K3 for FD and I have avoided the issue ever since.

Hmm... contest season is upon us and I want to get this resolved before CQ WW SSB.

OK, it's Wed and contest starts Fri pm. Should be plenty of time to resolve this.

As I've found many times over the years, leaving something alone for some time seems to make things clearer. (Why did I have such a hard time with Physical Chemistry? Looking at the textbook now it seems pretty straightforward. It hasn't helped with my understanding of thermodynamics, though. Might need another lifetime for that - including a stop-over in Hell?)

Two things which dawned on me in the interim were:

- 1) The setup procedure is based on having a handheld mic, typically electret and possibly with various control buttons, plugged into the back of the MK-II and a headset or boom mic, typically dynamic, plugged into the front.
- 2) If you're not going to use a hand electret mic there is absolutely no point in using it as a reference as in the "station mic" instructions.

So, I redid everything using my Heil headset with the HC4 dynamic mic for every step in the setup procedure. Still lots of puzzlements due to lack of manual clarity and also a lot of time spent on family matters so didn't actually get on for WW SSB until Sunday.

When I listened to myself talking using the K3 monitor function I was blown away by how clean the audio was. During WW SSB two stations bothered to take the time to comment on how good my signal sounded. That's never happened before.

When transmitting RTTY with MMTTY you see in the spectrum display a signal with a sharp peak which falls away on either side of the peak but has a bunch of uniformly spaced spikes in the part which falls away. I believe these to be distortion products. I note with interest that the magnitude of these spikes is much less with the MK-II sound card than with the on-board card in my computer.

The take-away is that the MK-II documentation is really poor but the hardware is really good. Guess I'll just ask for a refund on the documentation. Just kidding.

Guess I've joined the ranks of the Mk-II believers.

~ Jim VE7FO



December 2014



SEPAR Report

Fred Orsetti VE7IO



THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF SEPAR HISTORY

This year SEPAR celebrates 20 years of service to the City of Surrey. We thought it would be a good time to take a nostalgic look back and reflect on those early days through to the present in a series of articles for the Communicator.

The first SEPAR coordinator was Ken Boles, VE7FYB, who led a team of Deputy Coordinators, Doug VE7WLF, Norm VE7FKN, Ken VE7EZV and Mike VE7IDD. In upcoming articles we will attempt to find out where these founding members are now and how they remember the early days of SEPAR. In addition to the Coordinator and Deputies there were Captains and Co-Captains who were responsible for various parts of Surrey. Where are they now?

From the beginning SEPAR was tasked with providing emergency communications throughout Surrey. This was a challenge for the founding members, who needed to find suitable locations for radio installations. The Surrey Emergency Program selected schools for the reception centres. SEPAR was asked to install communications at five selected schools. In articles to follow we will look at how the founding members planned, selected radios, provided for the installation of antennas, secure radio boxes and set up a call out procedure.

From the beginning in 1994 through the next 3 years SEPAR members worked to bring the five schools on line with emergency amateur radio equipment. They set up a management structure for these sites with a pager contact system. We will look at how they did this with the technology of the day and how effective it was.

Through the years following the school installations the city moved forward with new reception centre locations, technology changed and amateur radio had to change as well. We will look at how the move to more portability came about, the construction of the grab and go kits and why this was needed.

From the beginning SEPAR has been a community based service under the Surrey Emergency Program. We will look at the service SEPAR volunteers have provided and the ambassadorial role the volunteers have played in Surrey. We will interview some of the key organizers of our community events as well as managers from the Surrey Emergency Program.

During more recent years there has been a move to become more involved with community emergency communications resulting in amateur radio home stations taking on a new role. We will look at how advanced technologies such as digital have helped provide the home based stations with the ability to handle communications more accurately.

The articles will be a chronological series following each other over the next few months.

~Fred VE7IO

SEPAR Coordinator
ve7io@separs.net

SEPAR now has a packet server up and running. The call for the server is VE7MOV-10 and you can access it using 144.93+, the VE7HNY repeater. You can only access the server by RF, there is currently no internet connection. If you have packet RF capability please give it a try. You can send messages to another packet equipped station and leave it on VE7MOV-10 so that the receiving station can then pick up their messages.

We managed to get this up and running for the upcoming Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on November 22nd. There are still details to work out regarding the message protocol, however, we will work on this on Tuesday and send the information out to everyone.

Please give VE7MOV-10 a try, you can send me, VE7IO, a message and let me know if you would like to participate in the upcoming SET and if you have packet capabilities.



3916 Santa Nets Kick Off November 28

For the 9th Consecutive Year

For the 9th consecutive year, the 3.916 Nets will be giving good boys and girls a chance to talk to Santa Claus via the magic of ham radio. The '3916 Santa Nets' will be held at 7:30 PM every night from November 28 through December 24th. The Santa Nets are open to all licensed amateur radio operators who wish to invite kids to their shack to talk to Santa. Third party rules will apply.

For 2014, The 3916 Santa Net will be on the air nightly during the Christmas season. The net time is changing from 8:30 PM Central to 7:30 PM Central. Pete Thomson (KE5GGY), commented on The 3916 Santa Nets. He said, "Christmas is our favorite time of year on The 3916 Nets. Each year on the Santa Nets we are blown away by the response. It's incredible to hear the excitement in kids' voices as they talk to Santa Claus on Ham Radio. Based on comments from last year, we're going to have the Santa Net every night during the Christmas season and we're moving the net back an hour so kids won't have to stay up too late."

Thomson added that The Santa Nets are a great way to let kids experience both the magic of Christmas and amateur radio. He said, "We encourage hams to get their kids, grand kids and even neighbor kids into their shacks to participate in the Santa Net. The kids love talking to Santa and we get an opportunity to show a young person how amateur radio works."

Each evening, The 3916 Santa Net will start at 7:30 PM (Central) on 3.916 MHz. Pre-net check-ins will be taken on the air starting at 7:15 PM. You can also do a pre-net check in by emailing ke5ggy@gmail.com.

For more information on The 3916 Nets or The Santa Net, contact Pete Thomson, KE5GGY at ke5ggy@gmail.com.



"Each year on the Santa Nets we are blown away by the response."

Tech Tip

Ya gotta try this:

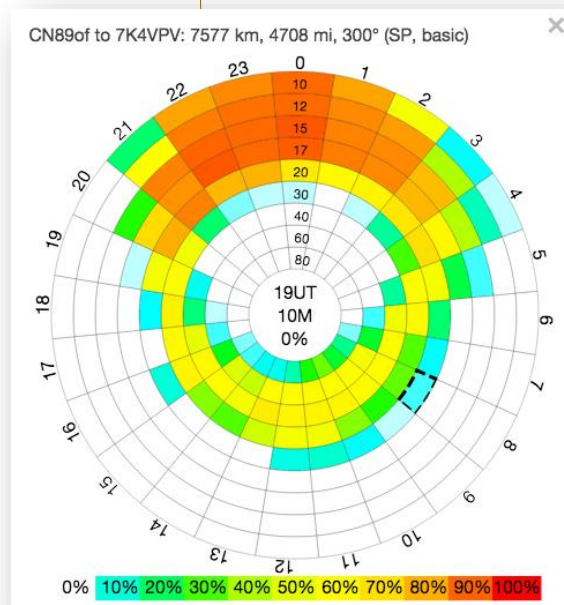
1. Go to <http://www.dxsummit.fi/>
2. Left click on a spot
3. In the pop-up menu select "Show VOACAP Predictions"
4. Gaze at the result with awe.

After setting your location, you can proceed to view VOACAP predictions. You can do so on the Main page (spots from the Menu bar) by clicking any callsign in the spot list and choosing Show VOACAP Predictions.

The numbers around the outer edge are UTC times with 0000 at the top. The numbers in the vertical "pie" slice are bands from 10 to 80m. In the propagation circle, the highlighted segment (with black dotted borders) denotes the current prediction from your QTH to the target area. The colours indicate the probability of being heard at the location of the spotted station.

Many assumptions are made with respect to antennas, power level, mode etc. so it isn't a precise tool. Still, it will enable you to see which bands and times are best for you to contact the spotted station."

~ 73, Jim VE7FO



December 2014



QRM

...from the Editor's shack

*Do you have a photo or bit of club news to share?
An Interesting link?*

*Something to sell or something you are looking for?
eMail it to SARCcommunicator@outlook.com for inclusion in this column.*

That's How Field Day Goes!

***We have created a
music video based on
our Field Day
experiences. It will be
introduced at the
Christmas party and
will be posted on
YouTube for public
viewing shortly
thereafter.***

Good and Welfare

We just learned that SARC member Bhim Sen Nair VA7BIM recently suffered a stroke. He expects to recover fully, and we wish him well and a speedy recuperation.



Here's an interesting thought: An Ontario Radio Society?

~ From the North Shore ARC newsletter

"Imagine a unified annual membership, initiated at the club level, that would fund the Club, The Ontario Society and RAC.

Each level is funded for services it provides, with clear division of responsibility. Members choose to belong to a Club and elect an executive, Clubs belong to a Provincial Society and elect an executive, and the Provincial Society chooses to belong to RAC and appoint Provincial Directors. It's a bottom up structure and the financial flow ensures a Servant-Leader approach. If RAC fails to serve the provinces they may not get funded!

It is an interesting "inversion" of President Bawden's recent TCA message regarding ARES, pushing responsibility for ARES leadership down to the regions, effectively "outsourcing" the problems associated with lack of national leadership in Field Services. Instead of outsourcing a problem down, the Clubs and Provinces would hold RAC accountable, or we will find a more responsive National Society to spend out dollars with. Imagine that, People that pay the fees being treated as customers instead of a tax base!

I think there may be some sound thinking behind this - at a minimum it is worth looking into. The numbers certainly tell a supporting story. Ontario has a significant percentage of Canada's Amateurs and is underrepresented on the RAC board.

This might just be the method to shake up the status quo at RAC and force the Executive to be responsive to the needs of Ontario Amateurs."

More info at <http://www.crrl.ca/news/2014/11/12/an-ontario-radio-society>



Surrey Amateur Radio,
Your Tweet got retweeted!

Surrey Amateur Radio
@VE7SAR

Thank you @MayorWatts and
Congratulations @LindaHepner We
appreciate your support of Amateur Radio in
@surreyBC

10:09 PM - 15 Nov 14

Retweeted by

Dianne Watts @MayorWatts
To 12490 followers.

I am pleased to announce that Al Munnik VA7MP has accepted the position of acting Section Emergency Coordinator for the BC YUKON Section. Al has experience with ARES and emergency communications. His immediate priority will be to work on the November Simulated Emergency Test (SET) exercise.

Bill Gipps, Director, RAC, BC Yukon Section



Page 13—News You Can Lose

The Lighter Side of Amateur Radio



Now that's going mobile!

You can't make this stuff up!

What better accessory for your ham shack than a high powered assault rifle?



JOHNSON'S LURCH, Oregon – In what's being called a breakthrough in both RF engineering and culinary apparatus, a local ham radio operator has devised a way to enjoy his two favorite hobbies at once: ham radio AND eating.

Ivan Schmeister, a retired mechanical engineer and part-time inventor, has adapted his Hy-Gain Ham-IV rotor to not only rotate his large TH-11DX beam located at the top of his 75 foot tower, but through an elaborate system of pulleys, belts, trusses and duct tape, the rotor also turns a rotisserie cooking attachment on his family's barbecue grill.

A man of considerable girth, Schmeister says he was planning a family cookout one day when the idea hit him.

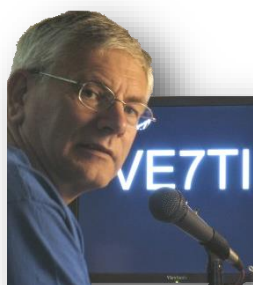
"After studying the various angles, analyzing the Newton-forces, and identifying the appropriate amount of torque, I determined that 'yes', my ham rotor would sufficiently rotate a chicken."

Chess Anyone?

A unique chess set made from a collection of large and small vacuum tubes.



December 2014



Tech Topics

John Schouten VE7TI

Rebuilding a Ham Rotor

Following up on my article on rebuilding/refinishing a tower (Communicator January 2014) I promised to also write an article on rebuilding an antenna rotator. The rotator described here is a typical model marketed for many years by Hy-Gain. The information also applies to many CDE and MFJ rotators. For many years I used a light duty TV rotator to turn a 5 element VHF Yagi. With my greater commitment to HF and contesting came the desire to improve on my wire antenna and graduate to a beam. Doing so required a beefier support structure and, because of the Yagi antenna's directional nature, a means to rotate it in the direction that I wanted to work.

For anyone contemplating a similar upgrade, I should add that I do not find that I can get any more stations than I did with my Carolina Windom off-centre fed wire antenna but, the noise that comes with distant stations is much less now and therefore they are easier to copy. Both antennas happily coexist on my tower and I find one or the other most useful depending on the band and my purpose.

I was fortunate to receive the donation of a Ham II rotator and control box, although it was in pretty rough shape after many years atop a tower. Birds had coloured it multiple shades of white and it was caked on pretty heavily. My first task therefore was to scrape and wash off as much of the debris as I could. Once that was done I decided my next move should be to hook it up to the controller to determine if it was usable - it wasn't.

The 8-terminal connection plate was so badly rusted that 6 of the screws could not be loosened with any amount of penetrating oil, rust remover, heat or any other means at my disposal. The previous

owner had clipped the control cable so there were a few centimetres of wire available that I could connect clip-leads to. Using this method

I was able to connect it to the controller and I switched on the power... nothing! I tried the rotation control in both directions with no luck. The illumination bulb on the controller lit but that was it.

Twisting the top of the rotator produced some motion however it soon became clear from the rust debris that fell from between the two rotator sections that internal work was going to be required. I did manage to find some documentation on the Internet that provided some insight on how these rotators are assembled along with warnings that, if you do take them apart, you had better mark your steps so that it goes back together the same way. The Ham series of rotators goes back a long way and have progressed through several models and versions. I also found out that it is not always clear which version you may have as labels have long since disappeared in the elements of the outdoors.

I decided that I had nothing to lose so I mounted the rotator on a section of pipe on my shop vise and examined the 4 bolts holding the halves of the external shell together. Needless to say they were also rusted badly. The shell itself is pot metal so very fragile, something to keep in mind when starting this task. Over the next several days I soaked the bolts with every chemical I could think of. I was eventually able to loosen and remove 3 of the 4

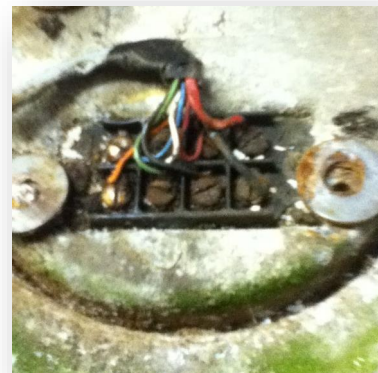


Photo above: The rotator before cleaning and disassembly.

Not one to be deterred by a challenge I decided to have a go at clean-up...



bolts. I drilled out the last bolt, eventually re-threading the hole to accept a replacement. It was finally apart!

As I mentioned, there are plenty of warnings about separating the shell. I dutifully made a mating mark on the halves and started to lift the bottom (it is mounted upside down for service). Despite my care, several ball bearings rolled onto the floor of my workshop and under those places that made retrieval difficult. Note to anyone attempting this process... place a shallow cardboard tray under the rotator. I was expecting rust but I wasn't quite prepared for the revelation that a number of the ball bearings were no longer recognizable as such. At this point I contemplated putting the unit in the recycling bin.



Not one to be deterred by a challenge I decided to have a go at clean-up. Over the next few days I carefully cleaned out as much rust as I could. I removed the rusted terminal plate and soldered on a pigtail that would later accept a waterproof connector. New terminal plates were available by mail order (about US \$25 with shipping) but I figured a new one would rust again just as quickly and as I was well into the innards a better means was available.

The motor mechanism was easily disassembled but I took special care to take lots of photos as I went along and I was happy I did so afterwards as it made re-assembly that much easier. The gears were not rusted but did have grease and other debris on them. A solvent bath cleaned things up nicely. The manufacturer recommends that very

little grease be used internally as it only gathers more dirt.

I paid special attention to the rheostat on top of the motor. This is the most vulnerable part of the rotator, and the most expensive to replace. It consists of a circular core wound with nichrome wire. As the rotator turns a brass wiper travels across this winding thereby varying the resistance. This resistance is shown on the meter movement that shows the bearing of the antenna N-E-W-S. The wire is very fine. Two things are most common when things go wrong. The rotator is forced past its limit of travel at either end, bending the brass wiper. This can be caused on early models without a mechanical brake and even on later models as the brake fails to activate in time due to rotational forces of the antenna. Third party add-on kits can prevent this from happening [link]. The second common cause of failure is a break in the nichrome winding of the rheostat either by a mechanical mishap or burn-out through improper connection to the control box. The winding of my rotator showed a burn mark confirming the latter. Fortunately it was at the extreme end of rotation and I was able to make a repair. The wiper had a minuscule void worn through where it had travelled over the wire. This was repaired with a small drop of solder on the outside surface. Resistance readings confirmed that it operated smoothly over its travel from end to end. I was pleased with myself for not having to spend the money (and waiting time) to order this as a replacement part.

I found replacement ball bearings were readily and cheaply available in bulk on eBay. I needed 100 but ordered 250 as the price was almost the same. I paid US \$15 for the lot. Contrast this to a local supplier who wanted 25 cents per ball bearing. Again the caution from the manufacturer not to use too much grease. A thimbleful of white lithium grease is all that is required for all gearing and the 100 ball bearings to operate smoothly.

Photos below: The rotator gear mechanism before cleaning.

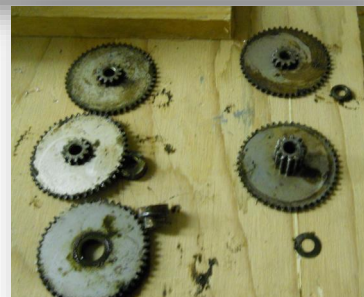
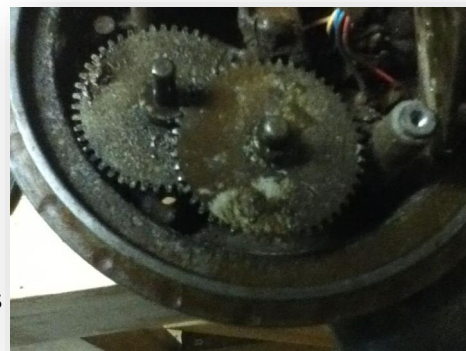
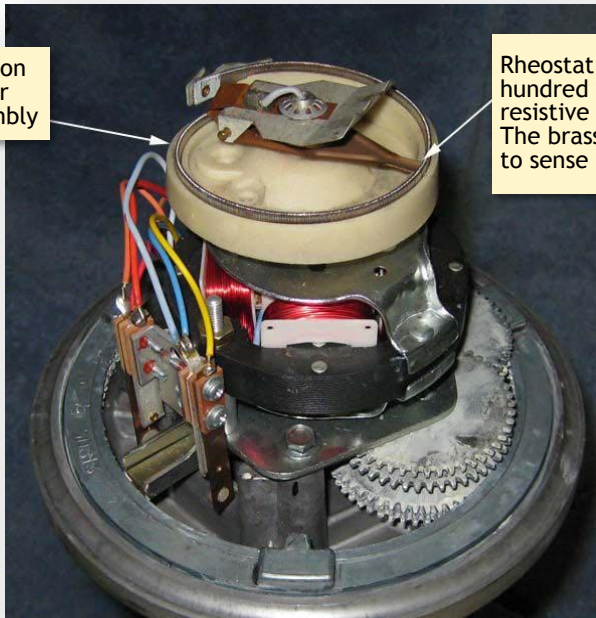


Photo above: The rheostat and wiper in the position sensor assembly.

December 2014

Position
sensor
assemblyRheostat: Several
hundred windings of fine
resistive nichrome wire.
The brass wiper rotates
to sense position.

In this article I refrained from listing each assembly/disassembly step, as the factory manual is readily available on-line at <http://bama.edebris.com/download/cde/ham-ii/ham2.pdf>.

I used it as my guide and was able to figure it out without too much difficulty. This guide also provides nominal resistance readings so you can troubleshoot the rotator before taking it off the tower. Should you need to order parts, the most quoted supplier is Norm's Rotor Service

<http://www.rotorservice.com/>

This is a do-able project for most of us with basic skills if you go step-by-step, take lots of photos and mark your work pieces as you disassemble.

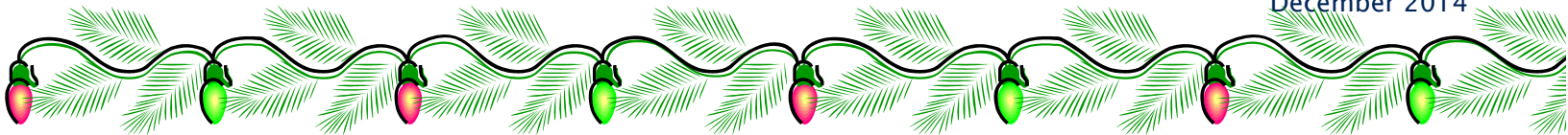
Now came the time to put it all together again. Fortunately this was not as difficult as I imagined while doing the disassembling. As long as you put the ring gear in the right way around, read 'oops' here..., then move the rotator (wiper) fully counterclockwise, and manage to slip the motor assembly into the toothed ring gear with an angled downward movement, all the while mindful of the markings you made earlier, all should go well.

I used stainless steel hardware to reassemble the shell halves. I have read nothing to indicate that this is improper and I figure it will be much easier should I ever have to open it again for servicing.

I acquired a waterproof 8-lead connector pair that will make it much easier to disconnect and service the unit in future should it have to come off the tower.

This is a do-able project for most of us with basic skills if you go step-by-step, take lots of photos and mark your work pieces as you disassemble.





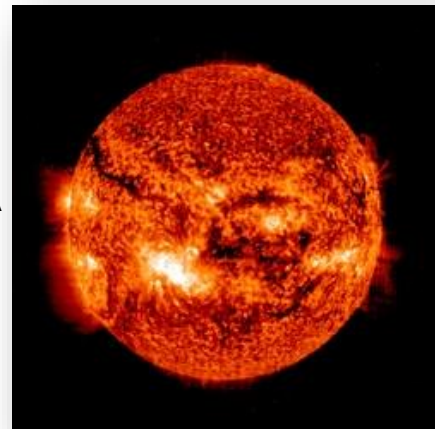
October 2014 CQ WW DX (SSB) Contest

Outstanding propagation conditions were in evidence during the late October CQ WW DX contest, as a result of a series of large solar flares which erupted a few days before the event. Accordingly to Tad Cook K7RA, the most powerful was an X1.6 flare on October 22 directly facing earth. Predicted solar flux during the weekend

<http://www3.arrl.org/nl/al/image/Solar%20Disk%202014-10-23.jpg> was 220, higher than on any day since January 7 and prior to that we hadn't seen solar flux values this high since late October 2003.

Sheldon VA7XNL and Kapila VE7K GK teamed up with John VA7XB for a VE7SAR multi-one category effort in the Oct 25-26 CQ WW DX (SSB) contest. During the 12 hours operating time of the 48 hour contest, the team managed to make 248 contacts in 50 zones and 124 countries for a claimed score of 119,364. Yes, this effort was officially considered to be training for field day, but that's just an excuse to have fun making some rare DX

contests and polishing the operating skills while enjoying some camaraderie with other members. A few of the more noteworthy contacts were E2E, E2X and HS50RAST (Thailand); P3F, C45T and P33W (Cyprus); XW1IC (Laos); A71CO (Qatar); UP0L (Kazakhstan); and 4L8A (Georgia) plus many others throughout Europe, Asia, South America and the Caribbean. What a treat: all the higher HF bands were open, including 10 meters. The team did not operate during the evening hours, so no comment can be made regarding conditions on the low bands, which may have been affected by the unsettled geomagnetic conditions (for better or worse). The radio, the antenna and the logging software all cooperated perfectly and the ops came away with a renewed confidence to think about a more aggressive effort at the next opportunity.



Solar flares can result in outstanding propagation

Two More SARC First Place Finishes



SARC members took first place in BC as M/M in the RAC Winter contest last year thanks to your support. Here is the certificate received from RAC.



Our Contesters also placed first in the 2013 ARRL Sweepstakes—BC Section for phone ops.

December 2014



Radio-Active

Jinty Reid VA7JMR



**Sheldon Ward
VA7XNL**

Sheldon was born in Surrey where he spent his first 3 years of life until the family moved to Langley. For the ensuing years he lived in Langley and lives there to this day. Sheldon's ancestral roots are German/ Scottish. He was one of two boys and his brother lives only a few miles from him. Although Sheldon played the trumpet in his high school band that was not where his talents lay. He was more interested in electronics and took subjects in this at Langley Senior Secondary School.

After leaving school in 1990 he attended BCIT taking...you guessed it, he took electronics with the idea of inventing and designing in that field. However, he, like most of us, needed to earn money so he left before completing his studies and went to work for his parents printing company. After that he worked for a couple of years in an electronic manufacturing company in Langley making power inverters and assembling circuit boards as well as working at the same time in another electronic company in

Burnaby. However, his main job for the past 15 years has been casting aluminum wheels for Toyota in Delta which requires shift work. The company is now downsizing and so workers are being phased out and Sheldon will be finished there in a few months. He is ready for a change so is not too perturbed. He plans to either go to Kwantlen College in Cloverdale or back to BCIT to

study as an industrial electrician. New horizons can be invigorating.

As another of his interests, Sheldon enjoys competitive shooting with shotguns and rifles. One day Joe Zaccaria mentioned to Sheldon's father, a Langley councillor, that he was going to take his Ham radio license course and when his father then repeated this to Sheldon, Sheldon decided to join Joe and took his Basic License also, obtaining honours.

Sheldon is interested in taking his Advanced License once he is no longer doing shift work which impedes his present involvement. Sheldon joined SARC in 2013. He has three BaoFeng (Chinese) hand-held radios, they do 2 and 70 metres and a 4th one does 2 metres and 1.25 metres. He also has 2 HF radios; a Kenwood 710 with APRS, 2 metres and 70 metres as well as a Kenwood 480SAT and an ICOM 7200.

Sheldon travelled to England and Scotland for a family reunion six years ago and hopes to go again next year. He has also been to Florida for one of the last launches of the Space Shuttle which was a highlight in his life. Fifteen years ago he travelled on his motorcycle to the Yukon.

We wish you good luck in your future studies Sheldon and hope when you no longer have to work shifts that you will be able to enjoy greater participation in ham radio events.

~ Jinty Reid VA7JMR



We Have A New Patch!

Over the summer we received our order of 100 club patches. These are suitable for sewing on a jacket, cap or your jammies, so you can proudly display your support for the club.

The price is \$4 each or three for \$10 and they can be picked up at the meeting or a Friday morning breakfast.



December Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 If you have not renewed your membership, this is your LAST issue of the Communicator	1	2 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone	3	4	5 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, 8076 King George Blvd.	6 Christmas Party 11:30 am -2 pm Kalmar Family Restaurant, 8076 King George Blvd.
7	8	9 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone	10	11	12 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, 8076 King George Blvd.	13 Contest: ARRL 10m Contest (CW & Phone) Starts Fri @ 0000 Zulu
14 Contest: ARRL 10m Contest (CW & Phone)	15	16 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone	17	18	19 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, 8076 King George Blvd.	20
21 Contest: ARRL Rookie Roundup (CW)	22	23 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone	24	25 	26 0800 Club Breakfast: Kalmar Family Restaurant, 8076 King George Blvd.	27 Contest: RAC Winter Contest (CW & Phone) Starts Fri @ 0000 Zulu
28	29	30 1930 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net 147.360 MHz 110.9 Tone	31 	1	2	3 For details on all SARC events, go to ve7sar.net For details on all SEPARS events, go to separ.shutterfly.com/calendar

December 2014

**QRT**

John Brodie VA7XB, ex VE7BFE

CLUB EXECUTIVE 2014-2015

PRESIDENT

John Brodie VA7XB

VICE PRESIDENT

Brett Garrett VE7GM

SECRETARYRob Gilchrist VE7CZV
(also Net Manager)**TREASURER**

Scott Hawrelak VE7HA

DIRECTORSJohn Schouten VE7TI
(Communicator Editor & Membership)

Bill Gipps VE7XS

Al Peterson VA7ALZ

Stan Williams VA7NF

On the Web ve7sar.net

Between newsletters, watch your e-mail for announcements of events, monthly meetings and training opportunities. These announcements can also be found on our web page, or via:

Twitter
[@ve7sar](https://twitter.com/ve7sar)

**SARC Photos
Web Albums**

or

tinyurl.com/SARCphoto

My Early Days in Amateur Radio

My interest in amateur radio was kindled by a Grade 9 science project which had me constructing a crystal radio set from a plan found in a magazine. As I recall, it was a simple design, comprised of a tuned circuit of large hand-wound coil and variable capacitor connected to a galena crystal for rectification and a set of high impedance headphones. What I didn't have was a .001 uF capacitor (which we called a "condenser") to bypass the RF for detection of the AF. A schoolmate who was already preparing for his ham licence and knew more about it offered to provide me with this critical part and that was the beginning of a long friendship. With my new project constructed, I found I could tune in AM radio stations from hundreds of miles away during the late evening hours when I was supposed to be asleep. All this took place around 1958/59 when solar activity and sunspots were at an all-time high and aurora could occasionally be seen above the North Shore mountains from my bedroom window. Knowing nothing about the sunspot cycle, I imagined that radio reception would always be this good.

My older brother had been interested in ham radio at one time, but never took the step of getting his ticket. In the process, he had acquired an old ARRL publication called "How to Get Started in Amateur Radio" (or similar title) which I confiscated and began devouring. It was like an epiphany to me - the detailed description in simple language of how electrons move in a tuned circuit with the capacitive and inductive reactance cancelling at the resonant frequency. One thing led to another, and I soon found myself absorbed in books from the library on radio theory, eventually coming across Jim Kitchen's guide which provided nearly everything one needed to know to get that coveted licence. I was in Grade 10 by this time at Magee High School and my school friend and I would sit in a classroom over lunch hour and practice our CW. With daily practice, we had mastered it to 10 wpm in a couple of months.

In those days, the licence candidate had to know enough theory to draw out a series of complete schematics including a transmitter, receiver, over-modulation meter, power supply and a few other things I have forgotten. Then he had to submit to a CW sending and receiving test at 5 wpm,

followed by the worst part - a verbal examination under the stern eye of the dreaded John Smith, the Radio Inspector, to explain every step and component of the circuits that were drawn. All of this was done without the benefit of reference material. As a 15-year old in 1960, it was a very intimidating experience but a year's intensive study beforehand had allowed me to pass the basic qualification with flying colours and I was shortly to receive the callsign of VE7BFE. One had no opportunity to select a callsign then - it was drawn in order from an alphabetical list.

I had taken a day off school for the examination, so went straight home afterwards and proceeded to call CQ on 40 m. I quickly found some novices on the band who could send and receive at my speed. The transmitter was a Heathkit DX-20 running 50 watts, a crystal controlled job which held me to a single frequency. I used a straight key as I couldn't afford a bug. My receiver was a Hallicrafters S-40 general coverage model. A 40 m dipole was strung up between the house and a fir tree in the yard, with the wire no more than 20 ft off the ground. Nevertheless conditions in 1960-62 were still good enough that I occasionally managed to work into Asia, Europe and the South Pacific. My first DX contact was UA0KFM on Sakhalin Island, north of Japan. This and a few other QSL cards from the early days are shown here. It was the height of the Cold War and the Soviets took the opportunity to use amateur radio for propaganda purposes. I stuck to CW as phone was permitted for basic licensees only on 10m, presumably to ensure that the beginner was kept away from the more active bands while in the process of becoming a proficient voice operator.

*VE7BFE's 3-element home-made
yagi and wood tower ca 1961*



In the following year, I obtained the advanced qualification and 12 wpm CW. Later during this 2-year period of activity, I replaced my original equipment with a used Harvey Wells TBS-50 AM/CW transmitter and a WW2 surplus RCA ACR-3 receiver, the latter a massive piece of equipment that must have weighed over 60 lb. The photo shows both, along with a home-brew 150 CW power amplifier using two 807 tubes in push-pull. A Heathkit VFO is visible on top of the PA and a partially-completed overmodulation indicator constructed with a surplus CRT to the right of the PA.



VE7BFE's station in the basement of his Vancouver home ca 1961

As I recall, there were 3 places in town where hams could purchase equipment and parts in the early 1960s. There was the "Ham Shack" located in a seedy part of Granville Street near the bridge (Reg was the proprietor); Taylor Pearson Carson on Seymour Street where Hedley Rendell and Bob Parrett manned the ham counter and sold new communications gear about which I could only dream; and Hygrade Radio just across the Street at Nelson and Seymour. Hedley and Bob later formed RP Electronics originally located on 4th Avenue in Vancouver but now in its modern incarnation is on Rupert St. Hedley had weekly code and theory classes at his home for aspiring hams, but I only

attended once as by the time I discovered this I was ready to take the exam and knew my CW.

My ham school friend was Jim Mitchell VE7ALQ, who in turn was mentored by an older friend of the family and neighbour, Bill Bishop VE7BCM. When I renewed my interest in ham radio (ca 2000) I was in touch with Bill and purchased his Collins KWM-350 transceiver, a crank-up tilt-over tower, TH7 beam and assorted other pieces of equipment. This got me started until I learned enough about the new ways of ham radio, to venture out and replace most of it with more modern gear (but I kept the tower!). Jim got his PhD in Electrical Engineering and went to Hamilton to start up his own business making electronic sports score boards; Bill has since become an SK.

I eventually built a tri-band quad (not shown) and then a 15 m 3-el yagi which was installed on a homemade wooden tower beside our family home on Cypress Street in Vancouver. I turned the beam with a rope attached to a pulley that could be reached by opening the basement window. 1962 was really my last year of active ham radio for nearly 40 years, as I left this phase of my life behind while pursuing an education, getting married and raising a family. I look back upon it with nostalgia. But I will venture to say that I do like the modern equipment much better than the old stuff. The only good feature of the old gear was that an SWR of 10:1 was no problem - transmitting tubes were very robust and a pi network could tune almost anything. And as an aside, around 1964 I donated some of this equipment and most of my junk box to a younger, aspiring ham by the name of Brett Garrett (who I never actually met at the time), but who 4 decades later was to emerge from the shadows of my past as VE7BWG/VE7GM - but that's another story.



Down The Log...

SARC Monthly Meetings

2nd Wed. (Sept-Jun)
1900 hrs at the
Emergency Mgmt
BC PREOC,
14275 96th Avenue,
Surrey, BC

Weekly Club Breakfast

Friday at 0800 hrs
Kalmar Family
Restaurant at
King George & 81st
Surrey

SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000
hrs local
on 147.360 MHz
(+) Tone=110.9

SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 19:30
hrs local
on 147.360 MHz
(+) Tone=110.9

SEPARS Monthly Training

4th Tuesday of each
month, 1900-2100
hrs local
14923—64th Ave,
next to Firehall #9,
Surrey.

SARC hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, also accessible on IRLP node 1736 and Echolink node 496228. On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9 and EchoLink Node 1736

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3 rd Tuesday	Rob VE7CZV	Anton VE7SSD
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5 th Tuesday	Jinty VA7JMR	Elizabeth VE7ELA
Want a turn at Net Control? Contact the SARC Net Manager VE7CZV @ separs.net		



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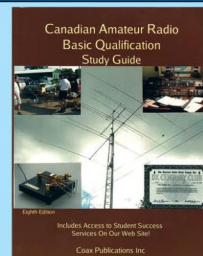
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